

## THE GREAT VICTORY.

Quartermaster General Meigs' Description of the Battle of Chattanooga.

The Rebels Surprised in Open Daylight.

Splendid Manœuvring on the Field.

HOOKER'S FIGHT ABOVE THE CLOUDS.

THE RESULTS OF THE VICTORY.

Quartermaster General Meigs' Report.

HEADQUARTERS, CHATTANOOGA, NOV. 26, 1863.

ROBINSON M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

On the 23d instant, at half-past eleven A. M., General Grant ordered a demonstration against Missionary Ridge, to develop the force holding it. The troops marched out, formed in order, and advanced in line of battle as if on parade.

The rebels watched the formation and movement from their picket lines and rifle pits, and from the summit of Missionary Ridge, five hundred feet above us, and thought it was a review and drill, so openly and deliberately, so regular, was it all done.

The line advanced, preceded by skirmishers, and at two o'clock P. M. reached our picket line, and opened a rattling volley upon the rebel pickets, who replied and ran into their advanced line of rifle pits. After them went our skirmishers and into them, along the center of the line of 25,000 troops which General Thomas had so quickly displayed, until we opened fire. Prisoners assert that they thought the whole movement was a review and general drill, and that it was too late to send to their camps for reinforcements, and that they were overwhelmed by force of numbers. It was a surprise in open daylight.

At three P. M., the important advanced position of Orchard Knob and the lines right and left were in our possession, and arrangements were ordered for holding them during the night. The next day at daylight General Thomas had five thousand men across the Tennessee and established on its south bank, and commenced the construction of a pontoon bridge about six miles above Chattanooga.

The rebel steamer Dunbar was repaired at the right moment, and rendered effective aid in this crossing, carrying over six thousand men.

By nightfall General Thomas had seized the extremity of Missionary Ridge nearest the river, and was threatening himself. General Howard, with a brigade, opened communication with him from Chattanooga on the south side of the river. Skirmishing and cannonading continued all day on the left and center. General Hooker scaled the slopes of Lookout Mountain, and from the valley of Lookout creek drove the rebels around the point. He captured some two thousand prisoners, and established himself high up on the mountain side, in full view of Chattanooga. This raised the blockade, and now steamers were ordered from Bridgeport to Chattanooga. They had run only to Kelley's Ferry, whence ten miles of hauling over mountain roads and twice across the Tennessee on pontoon bridges brought us our supplies.

All night the point of Missionary Ridge on the extreme left and the side of Lookout Mountain on the extreme right blazed with the camp fires of loyal troops.

The day had been one of dense mists and rains, and much of General Hooker's battle was fought above the clouds, which concealed him from our view, but from which his musketry was heard.

At nightfall the sky cleared and the full moon—"the traitor's doom"—shone upon the beautiful scene, until one A. M., when twinkling sparks upon the mountain side showed that picket skirmishing was going on. Then it ceased. A brigade fell from Chattanooga crossed the Chattanooga creek and opened communication with Hooker.

Gen. Grant's headquarters during the afternoon of the 23d and the day of the 24th were in Wood's redoubt, except when in the course of the day he rode along the advanced line, visiting the headquarters of the several commanders in Chattanooga valley.

At daylight on the 25th the Stars and Stripes were hoisted on the peak of Lookout. The rebels had evacuated the mountain.

Hooker moved to descend the mountain, striking Missionary Ridge at the Rossville Gap, to sweep both sides and its summit.

The rebel troops were seen, as soon as it was light enough, streaming regiments and brigades along the narrow summit of Missionary Ridge, either concentrating on the right to overwhelm Sherman, or marching for the railroad to raise the siege.

They had evacuated the valley of Chattanooga. Would they abandon that of Chickamauga?

The twenty-pounders and four-and-a-quarter inch rifles of Wood's redoubt opened on Missionary Ridge. Orchard Knob sent its compliments to the ridge, which, with rifled batteries, answered, and the cannonade, thus commenced, continued all day. Shot and shell screamed from Orchard Knob to Missionary Ridge, and from Missionary Ridge to Orchard Knob, and from Wood's redoubt, over the heads of General Grant and Thomas and their staff, who were with us in this favorable position, from whence the whole battle could be seen as in an amphitheatre. The headquarters were under fire all day long.

Cannonading and musketry were heard from General Sherman, and General Howard marched the Eleventh Corps to join him.

General Thomas sent out skirmishers, who drove in the rebel pickets and chased them into their intrenchments, and at the foot of Missionary Ridge Sherman made an assault against Bragg's right, entrenched on a high knob next to that on which Sherman himself lay fortified. The assault was gallantly made.

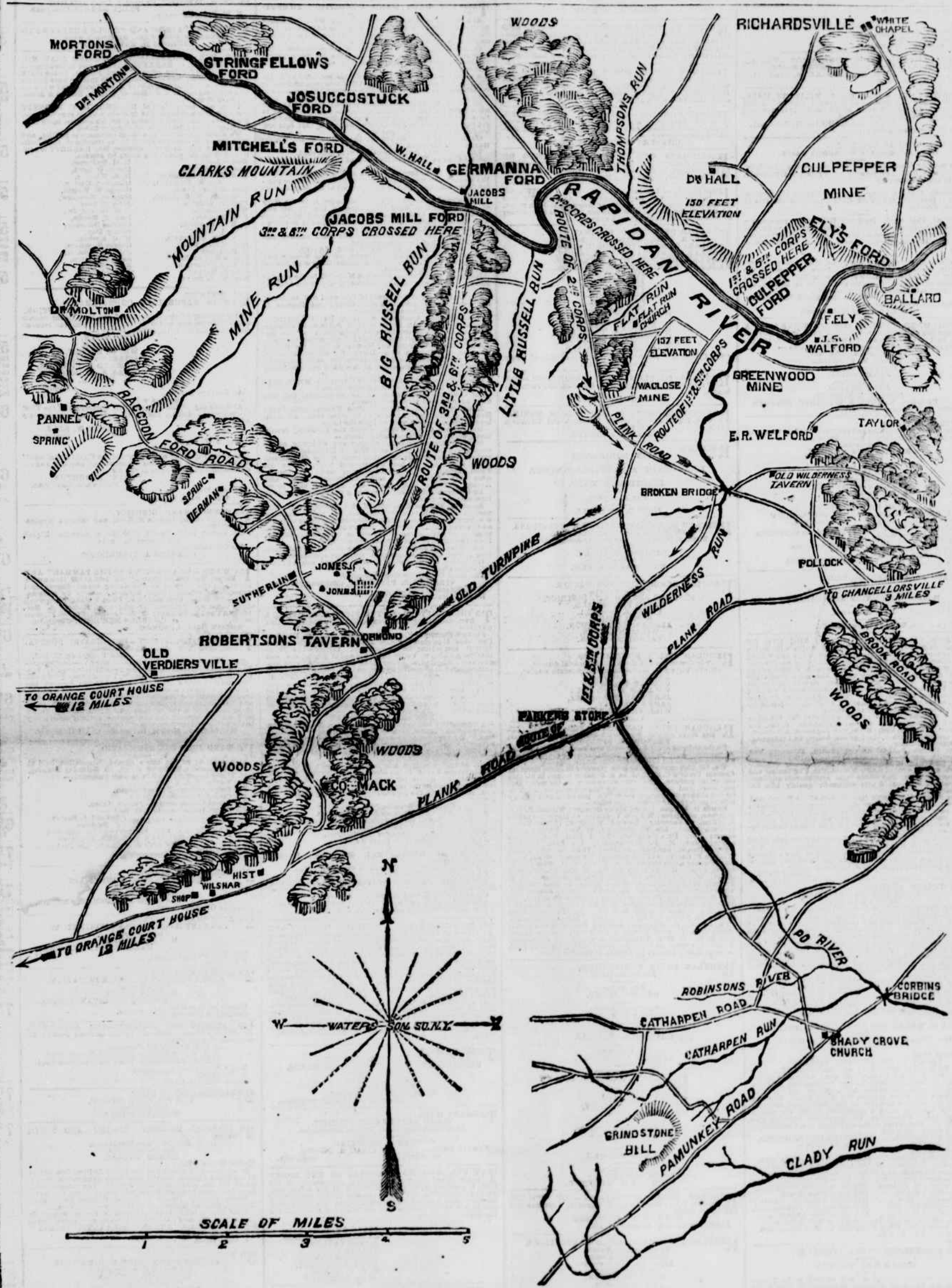
Sherman reached the edge of the crest, and held his ground for (it seemed to me) an hour, but was bloodily repulsed by reserves.

A general advance was ordered, and a strong line of skirmishers followed by a deployed line of battle some two miles in length. At the signal of leaden shots from headquarters on Orchard Knob the line moved rapidly and orderly forward. The rebel pickets discharged their muskets and ran into their rifle pits. Our skirmishers followed on their heels.

The line of battle was not far behind, and we saw the

## MEADE'S IMPORTANT MOVEMENTS.

The Army of the Potomac Across the Rapidan River---The Fords and the Routes of the Corps.



gray rebels swarm out of the ledge line of rifle pits and over the base of the hill in numbers which surprised us. A few turned and fired their pieces, but the greater number collected into the many roads which cross obliquely up its steep face, and went on to the top.

Some regiments pressed on and swarmed up the steep sides of the ridge, and here and there a color was advanced beyond the line. The attempt appeared most dangerous; but the advance was supported, and the whole line was ordered to storm the heights, upon which not less than forty pieces of artillery, and so many how many muskets, stood ready to slaughter the assailants. With cheers answering to cheers the men swarmed upwards. They gathered to the points least difficult of ascent, and the line was broken. Color after color was planted on the summit, while musket and cannon rattled their thunder upon them.

A well directed shot from Orchard Knob exploded a rebel cannon on the summit, and the gun was seen being speedily taken to the right, its driver leading his horses. A party of our soldiers intercepted them, and the gun was captured, with cheers.

A fierce musketry fight broke out to the left, where, between Thomas and Sherman, a mile or two of the ridge was still occupied by the rebels.

Bragg left the house in which he had held his headquarters, and rode to the rear as our troops crowded the hill on either side of him.

General Grant proceeded to the summit, and then only did we know its height.

Some of the captured artillery was put into position. Artillerists were sent for to work the guns and cannons were searched for ammunition.

The rebel log breastworks were torn to pieces and carried to the other side of the ridge and used in forming barbed wire across.

A strong line of infantry was formed in the rear of

Baird's line, and engaged in a musketry contest with the rebels to the left, and a secure lodgment was soon effected.

The other assault to the right of our centre gained the summit, and the rebels threw down their arms and fled. Hooker, coming into favorable position, swept the right of the ridge and captured many prisoners.

Bragg's remaining troops left early in the night, and the battle of Chattanooga, after days of manœuvring and fighting, was won. The strength of the rebellion in the centre is broken. Burnside is relieved from danger in East Tennessee. Kentucky and Tennessee are rescued. Georgia and the Southwest are threatened in the rear, and another victory is added to the chapter of "Unconditional Surrender Grant."

To-night the estimate of captures is several thousands prisoners and thirty pieces of artillery.

Our loss for so great a victory is not severe. Bragg is firing the railroad as he retreats towards Dalton. Sherman is in hot pursuit.

To-day I viewed the battle field, which extends for six miles along Missionary Ridge and for several miles on Lookout Mountain.

Probably not so well directed, so well ordered a battle has taken place during the war. But one assault was repulsed; but that assault, by calling to that point the rebel reserves, prevented them repulsing any of the others.

A few days since Bragg sent to General Grant a flag of truce advising him that it would be prudent to remove any non-combatants who might be still in Chattanooga. No reply has been returned; but the combatants having removed from this vicinity, it is probable that non-combatants can remain without inconvenience.

M. C. MEIGS, Quartermaster General.

## BURNSIDE'S ARMY.

The Latest from Knoxville.

CAMP LOUIS, Ky., Nov. 25, 1863.

General Burnside still holds Knoxville, and has held his position for ten days, against large odds. He is a moral and military hero, and has endeavored himself to the Union men of East Tennessee as no man ever did, and deserves the honor and confidence of the whole country.

My family are in Knoxville, and I am on my way to Cincinnati, advised to leave by the military authorities. I shall return by Chattanooga. W. G. BROWNLOW.

Musical.

THE MATINEE AT THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC. One can endure the outbreak of a heavy dramatic man. Such are generally, though passionate, good hearted, and after the storm there comes a peaceful state. Not so with these six, effeminate, cowardly, suspicious beings, who peer and watch about and are at all times unpleasant, treacherous and unkind. They are unbearable, there are no serene moments with them. In the manner on we endure with fortitude a good, hard, honest shower, which comes down with a will and then passes away leaving the sky clear. But a nasty, misty, driving day, when the rain comes down in fine drops, insinuating itself into and under all things, renders us miserable, causes us to think of the discomforts of the most prospective comfortableness. Just such detestable weather did we have yesterday, and yet there was a crowd of richly dressed ladies at the grand matinee, which was the last of this operatic season.

There was great indifference at this matinee. Bellini's most melodious opera, "La Sonnambula," was to be sung by Miss Kelley, who is always so successful in the role of Annetta. Signor Lotti, as Elvino, and Miss Bluff as the Countess Rodolfa. Added to this, the management announced that Miss Virginia Loring would sing the grand aria from the "Cendrillon," and that, aided by Signor Mazzanti, she would sing the "Miserere," from "Il Trovatore." That this announcement was tempting to the audience of the Academy of Music is evident from the fact that they crowded the house.

The opera passed off most successfully. Miss Kelley, who is ever so perfect in singing so stately, was, throughout the three acts of "La Sonnambula," the

roughly pleasing. She sang the aria "Come per me moro" with much taste and execution. The aria finale, "Al non t'ingrati," she rendered admirably. There is no doubt that Miss Kelley is very successful in this opera.

At the conclusion of the opera, Miss Loring appeared in costume and sang the "Miserere," aided by Signor Mazzanti. This effort was so successful as to cause a universal desire that the talented artist might be heard in the whole of the opera. In the role of Lucia, Miss Loring achieved a great success in her last season. Upon the fall of the curtain, Signor Lotti and Signor Mazzanti were loudly applauded and called out. This part of the entertainment was very successful.

MARTINE'S BENEFIT.

The first of the operatic season, announced at the commencement of the winter by Mr. Martine, has been concluded, and he now goes to Philadelphia with his troupe. We may say, in parenthesis, that we were the good people of the city, and that we were very much pleased to see him, and continue by stating that on Monday night Martine had a benefit, upon which occasion he sang a "Miserere" which was very much appreciated. Last Friday evening the opera was admirably rendered. At this time the artist supplied themselves of their own money and not of the house, and the whole performance was very successful. On Monday evening it was, of course, no longer so, as it is now in the hands of the "Miserere" and "Il Trovatore," and the public became "familiar" with these operas the more they were sung.

Martine's concert, and the whole operatic season, has been a success. We have enjoyed the operatic season, and we have enjoyed the public. We hope that the benefit will be a success.

From Fort Monroe.

Fort Monroe, Nov. 26, 1863.

About two thousand boxes and packages arrived here yesterday by Adams' Express, en route for Union prisoners in and about Richmond, from their friends at the North.

The Orange Company called for Southern, N. C., at three o'clock this morning.

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## MEADE'S ARMY.

Successful Progress of the Army of the Potomac.

Heavy Cannonading Heard on Friday.

THE REBEL CAVALRY DRIVEN BACK.

Lee's Forces Moving Towards Orange County Court House.

&c., &c., &c.

Mr. William Young's Despatches.

RAPPAHANNOCK STATION, VA., NOV. 25-1 P. M.

The progress made by General Meade is highly encouraging and successful.

A new basis of supplies will be established in a very few days, from which the army will operate with most damaging effect to the confederacy.

We are having a heavy and disagreeable rain.

RAPPAHANNOCK STATION, VA., NOV. 25-1 P. M.

The Army of the Potomac has finally severed its line of communication with Washington, and nothing has come through from it since yesterday morning.

If there had been a general engagement yesterday the wounded would have been sent to the rear and conveyed to Washington by the railroad from this point. As no wounded men have been sent here, it is certain that no battle has been fought.

The heavy cannonading of yesterday was probably of no greater importance than artillery firing frequently is, which makes a great deal of noise, but does little execution.

This morning cannonading was heard, fainter than that of yesterday, but during the day it has been perfectly quiet.

The rain ceased before dark, and it is probable that the quantity which fell to-day will not interfere with the movements of the army except for a few hours.

In emancipating itself from Washington, the Army of the Potomac is in a position to operate most disastrously against the rebels. Should it also emancipate the Union prisoners now enduring ages of misery in a single month at Richmond, it will accomplish one of the greatest achievements performed by any army during the war.

Some time since it was intimated in this correspondence that movements were contemplated which would give joy to the heart of every loyal man in the country and plunge the rebels into the deepest depths of grief. Are not the hopes of the people being realized and does not every day develop something new relating to the purposes of General Meade?

General Ingalls, Chief Quartermaster of the Army of the Potomac, complimented Colonel Devereux, the superintendent of the Military railroad, which has transported supplies to the army, by sending him a despatch commending him for the commendable General and himself, and other officers of the Quartermaster's Department, were under great obligations to the superintendent for the promptness and efficiency of his transportation department, which has foraged and rallied a large army, sufficiently not only for its daily supplies, but for such a number of days ahead as to enable it to start out on a long march, and all this on a single track railroad.

The train this evening will take down nine guerillas, captured between Catlett's Station and Fairfax Court House last night. Four of them were captured in one house, and were all in one bed. One of them had three thousand dollars in greenbacks in his pocket.

The Press Despatches.

WASHINGTON, NOV. 26, 1863.

No intelligence respecting the Army of the Potomac has been received today at army headquarters up to two o'clock this afternoon.

The Star says that yesterday morning our cavalry pushed forward as far as Locust Grove, where they met the advance of the rebel cavalry, and the latter were driven across Russell creek, or river, and afterwards across Mill run. A body of rebel infantry was posted between that point and Orange Court House, and the whole rebel force moved off in the direction of the latter place.

Locust Grove is four miles south of Germanna Ford, in Orange county, and within a short distance of the wilderness where Hooker fought his battle.

Mill run is two miles from Locust Grove, and from thence to Mountain river, where the rebel General Early, with Ewell's old corps, is said to be in force, is about six miles. Orange Court House is ten or twelve miles further on in a southwest direction.

Escape of the Rebel General John Morgan and Six of His Officers from the Ohio Penitentiary.

CINCINNATI, NOV. 25, 1863.

General John Morgan and six of his officers—viz: Captains Bennett, Taylor, Shelden, Haynes, Hockersmith, and McLean—escaped from the Columbus penitentiary last night, by digging through the floor of their cell to a sewer leading to the river.

One thousand dollars reward is offered for the arrest of Morgan.

Great exertions are being made to recapture the fugitives.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Nov. 26, 1863.

John Morgan, on retreating, changed with his brother Jack from the top cell to the lower tier. The floor of the lower cell is two and a half inches thick, in which a hole was cut, under the bed, leading down into a two and a half foot sewer, running to the main wall around the penitentiary. This wall was not under, and the party was caught into the open country. The night was dark, with heavy rain. All efforts are being made by the authorities for his recapture.

The Secretary of War at Home.

PENNSYLVANIA, Pa., Nov. 26, 1863.

Secretary Stanton was accompanied at his home in Steelville last night. A large crowd of citizens, accompanied by the City Band, visited his home about nine o'clock in the evening, and after the music the Secretary made an appearance, and, although suffering from a severe cold, made a spirited address to his old friends. After a short address by Mr. McKim, and some cheers for General Stanton, the crowd went through the hall of the house, greeting the Secretary as they passed. About ten o'clock the crowd had all dispersed. It was a pleasant affair, and all appeared delighted with the warm greeting they received from their distinguished fellow-citizens.

The Penna. National Association.---By the advertisement in another column it will be seen that the celebration of the French national anniversary, at Cooper hall, to-morrow evening, is to be quite an imposing affair. Representatives from the French, Irish, German and other national societies are to be present and take part in the proceedings, and the list of speakers contains a collection of names, any one of which ought to be sufficient to draw a crowded house. Carl Schurz, Richard D. Webb, General Sigel, Henry Foster and Dr. Dixon, have consented to deliver addresses without fail, and the various societies will each furnish an orator. Capt. Wm. F. Lynde will speak on the subject of the French Revolution, and Mr. Foster will speak on the subject of the French Revolution, and Mr. Lynde will speak on the subject of the French Revolution.

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